



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

October 10, 2008

Bradley Marshall, Treasurer  
Democratic Executive Committee of Florida  
214 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32302

**Response Due Date:**  
**November 10, 2008**

Identification Number: C00005561

Reference: Year End Report (12/1/07-12/31/07)

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **Failure to adequately respond by the response date noted above could result in an audit or enforcement action.** Additional information is needed for the following 15 items:

1. The totals listed on Lines 6(c), 7, 11(a)(i), 11(a)(ii), 11(b), 11(c), 11(d), 12, 19, 20, 21(a)(i), 21(a)(ii), 21(b), 21(c), 23, 28(a), 28(c), 28(d), 29, 30(b), 30(c), 31, and 32, Column B of the Summary and Detailed Summary Page(s) appear to be incorrect. Please be advised that you should add the "Calendar Year-to-Date" total from your previous report to the current "Total This Period" figure from Column A to derive the correct Column B totals. Please amend your report and any subsequent reports that may be affected by this correction.
2. The beginning cash balance of this report should equal the ending balance of your Amended December Monthly Report (11/1/07-11/31/07), received 8/15/08. Please clarify this discrepancy and amend any subsequent report(s) that may be affected by this correction.
3. Schedule A supporting Line 15 of the Detailed Summary Page discloses a refund(s) or rebate(s) of what appears to be a previously disclosed allocable expense(s) from "Disney Destinations, LLC." Please be advised that when a committee receives a refund or rebate of an allocable expense, it must be allocated between the federal and non-federal accounts according to the same allocation ratio used to allocate the original disbursement.

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Furthermore, the federal account must transfer the non-federal portion to the non-federal account and disclose this transfer-out on Schedule H4. Your report does not appear to disclose a transfer-out of the non-federal portion of this refund(s) or rebate(s). Please provide clarification regarding this apparent omission.

4. Schedule A of your 2007 reports combined discloses transfers totaling \$50,827.17 from the "Democratic Victory Fund," which is a joint fundraising committee affiliated with your committee. The sum of the entries itemized on the memo Schedule A, however, total only \$2,294.25.

Please be advised that a memo Schedule A must be provided to itemize your committee's share of the gross contributions received through the joint fundraiser. The memo schedule should itemize each individual who has contributed an aggregate in excess of \$200 during the calendar year, and provide the amount of unitemized contributions received. In addition, the memo schedule should itemize your committee's share of all contributions from political committees, regardless of amount. 11 CFR §102.17(c)(8)(i)(B) Please clarify this discrepancy.

5. Schedule A supporting Line 12 of your report discloses \$9,125.00 in activity identified as MEMO entries that do not appear to correspond with any itemized transaction(s). Please be advised, a memo entry is used to disclose additional information about an itemized transaction and the amount of a memo entry is not included in the total receipts or disbursements for the report. Please amend your report to provide clarifying information regarding this activity.

6. Schedule B supporting Line 21(b) of your report discloses \$5,635.44 in activity identified as MEMO entries that do not appear to correspond with any itemized transaction(s). Please be advised, a memo entry is used to disclose additional information about an itemized transaction and the amount of a memo entry is not included in the total receipts or disbursements for the report. Please amend your report to provide clarifying information regarding this activity.

7. The Detailed Summary Page, on Line 18(a) Column A of your Amended November Monthly (10/1/07-10/31/07), received 7/20/08, Amended December Monthly (11/1/07-11/30/07), received 8/15/08, and Year End (12/1/07-12/31/07) Reports combined, disclose \$312,796.40 in transfers from the non-federal account for allocated activity for the reporting period. However, Line 21 (a)(ii) Column A discloses \$224,760.56 as the non-federal share for allocated activity for the reporting

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period. While the non-federal account is permitted to transfer funds to the federal account for allocated activity, transfers for allocated activity must be made within a 70-day time period: no more than 10 days before or 60 days after the payment to the vendor. 11 CFR §§106.6(e)(2) and 106.7(f)(2) Please clarify the nature of the transfers-in from the non-federal account.

The Commission recommends that you immediately transfer back to the non-federal account, the total excessive amount which was received by your federal account outside the 70-day time period. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

8. Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "Communication," "Consulting Fee/*Communications*," and "Telephone/*Communications*." Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(1), expenditures for public communications (as defined by 11 CFR §100.26) that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any such candidate for Federal office must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Only federal funds may be used.

Further, expenditures and disbursements for public communications that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any candidate for Federal office, meet the definition of Federal Election Activity under 11 CFR §100.24 and should be disclosed on Schedule B for Line 30(b) along with the identity of the candidate(s). However, public communications that meet the definition of Federal Election Activity and that also contain express advocacy as defined under 11 CFR §100.22, but do not meet the conditions of exempt activity, would constitute an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated party expenditure and should be properly disclosed on a Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, as appropriate, rather than on Schedule B for Line 30(b). Please amend your report to properly disclose this activity or provide clarifying information.

If this activity was categorized incorrectly, the Commission recommends that you immediately transfer the funds received by your federal account for this activity back to the non-federal account. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

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9. Schedule H4 discloses 100% non-federal activity. Please be advised that by definition, this activity does not qualify as an expense(s) that can be allocated between your federal and non-federal accounts. If the disbursements were for operating expenditures paid for with 100% federal funds, they should be itemized on Schedule B for Line 21(b) of the Detailed Summary Page. If these expenses were permissibly paid for with 100% non-federal funds, they should not be disclosed on Schedule H4. Further, any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for any portion of this activity is not permissible and must be returned. 11 CFR §102.5(a)(1)(i) Please amend your report to clarify this discrepancy.

10. On Schedule H4, your allocated activity or event year-to-date total calculations for the Administrative category are incorrect. Allocated activity or event year-to-date totals for administrative, voter drive, exempt activity costs and expenses for public communications made by PACs referencing only political parties are derived by aggregating all disbursements during the calendar year for each separate category. Allocated activity or event year-to-date totals for fundraising and direct candidate support activities are derived by aggregating all disbursements during the calendar year within a specific event. These should be calculated by adding the latest disbursement for a category or event to the previous event year-to-date total for that category or event. This running event year-to-date total should be disclosed after each disbursement is listed. Please amend your report by providing the correct event year-to-date totals.

11. Schedule H4 of your report discloses disbursements for the Administrative category which use a ratio that is inconsistent with the ratio disclosed on Schedule H1. The fixed ratio for the allocation of administrative, generic voter drive and exempt activity expenses by State, district and local party committees should be the same for the full two-year election cycle unless a scheduled Special election would change this ratio. Please amend your report to clarify this apparent discrepancy.

Please note that if your non-federal account has overpaid your federal account because of this miscalculation, it will be necessary to immediately transfer these funds back to the non-federal account. While the Commission may take further legal action concerning any impermissible overpayments by the non-federal account, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

12. Schedule H4 of your report discloses lump sum payments to "Time + Plus Payroll Services" for payroll purposes; however, you have provided incomplete itemization of the individuals who received payment. Each

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person who provided services to the committee must be identified in a memo entry on Schedule H4 regardless of the amount. Please amend your report by providing the name, date, amount, and purpose for such payments as required by 11 CFR §§104.10 and 104.17.

13. Schedule(s) B and H4 of your report discloses a reimbursement(s) to an individual(s) for apparent travel and subsistence advances in which the total amount reimbursed exceeds \$500. When the reimbursement amount to staff for travel and subsistence advances exceeds \$500, the payments by committee staff that make up the reimbursement have to be itemized as memo entries regardless of the amount. Each memo entry must include the complete name and address of the original vendor, as well as the date, amount and an adequate purpose. Please amend your report to include the missing information and clearly identify on the Schedule H4, which reimbursement each memo entry relates to. 11 CFR §§104.10 and 104.17, and Advisory Opinion 1996-20, footnote 3

14. Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbursements were made. Please amend Schedule(s) B and H4 of your report to clarify the following description(s): "F&B." For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).

15. Please clarify all expenditures made for "Catering" on Schedule H4. If a portion or all of these expenditures were made on behalf of specifically identified federal candidates, this amount should be disclosed on Schedules B, E, or F supporting Lines 23, 24, or 25 and include the amount, name, address and office sought by each candidate. 11 CFR §§104.3(b) and 106.1

Alternatively, if the payment(s) on Schedule H4 is associated with fundraising activity conducted for your committee's federal and non-federal accounts, it must be allocated according to the funds received method and the ratio reflected on Schedule H2. Further, it must be categorized as a fundraising activity on Schedule H4. Please provide clarifying information regarding the nature of this transaction(s) and amend your report(s) as appropriate.

**Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter.** Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to

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taking enforcement action. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.**

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1153.

Sincerely,

*Kristin DeCarmine*

Kristin DeCarmine  
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst  
Reports Analysis Division

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